GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3750
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Visa for Hong Kong
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hong Kong has withdrawn visa free travel facility to the Indian citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has opposed this decision of Hong Kong; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government on this issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) & (b) As per immigration regulation of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Indian nationals who are desirous of staying in Hong Kong for a period exceeding 14 days are required to obtain visa. Indian passport holders who visit Hong Kong for less than 14 days for tourism and such purposes can enter without first obtaining visa. Since 23 January 2017, Hong Kong authorities have introduced an additional layer of scrutiny for such Indian nationals who wish to avail the visa free entry for less than 14 days' stay. This additional layer of scrutiny is mandatory pre-arrival registration. Indian nationals who successfully complete on-line pre-arrival registration can enter Hong Kong and obtain visa on arrival. For others, they are required to obtain prior visa before arriving in Hong Kong.

(c) & (d) Government of India has conveyed to HKSAR authorities that in view of expanding people-to-people and business ties, it is important that visa and immigration system help such exchanges and not create additional hurdles. They have also been reminded of Government of India's liberalization of visa system for HKSAR passport holders through on-line visa facility.